



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Your Reference: HL83091/000/ASG
Application No: GB 0220872.6

6 December 2002

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations.

Conciseness

Your application fails to comply with Section 14(5)(b) of the Act with regard to conciseness. The excessive number of independent claims obscures the scope of the protection being sought.

Plurality of invention

I consider that there is a prima facie case for plurality, however as a consequence of the above conciseness objection, I am deferring the identification of the separate inventions at this time. My report therefore only relates to claim 1 and claims appendant thereto. If you want any of the other inventions searched, you should file a separate Patents Form 9/77 for each independent claim.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **25 February 2003**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

[†]Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

Yours faithfully

Richard So
Examiner



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Application No: GB 0220872.6
Claims searched: 1 to 4

Examiner: Richard So
Date of search: 5 December 2002

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1 to 4.	GB 2343691 A (SHELL). See whole document in particular the figure.
X, P	1 to 4	US 2002/0066576 A1 (COOK et al.). See whole document especially the figures
X, P	1 to 4	US 6328113 B1 (COOK). See whole document in particular the figure.

Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^T:

E1F.

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

E21B.

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI.